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Message Text

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55
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 /033 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
EB/ICD/ISM:BMILLER
---------- 074384
R 030330Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 270456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, US, GV

SUBJECT:BETHLEHEM STEEL INTEREST IN GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 2196 (NOTAL),STATE 268232 (NOTAL),
CONAKRY 2178, MONROVIA A-65 (NOTAL)

1. SCHNEIDER OF BETHLEHEM HAS BEEN AWARE OF SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 8 MIFERGUI/NIMBA BOARD MEETING. HE STATED BETHLEHEM HAD DECIDED NOT TO TAKE EQUITY INTEREST IN MIFERGUI SOME TIME AGO. BETHLEHEM PRESENTLY USING CAPITAL TO EXPAND IN LIBERIA WHERE IT ALREADY OWNS 25 PERCENT OF LAMCO'S RAIL, PORT AND MINE FACILITIES. IT HAS DISCUSSED USE OF THESE FACILITIES FOR MIFERGUI/NIMBA WITH GOL. SCHNEIDER SAID THAT BETHLEHEM HAD TOLD GOL THAT FACILITIES IN LIBERIA COULD BE USED FOR MIFERGUI/NIMBA PROVIDED BETHLEHEM WOULD RECEIVE PAYMENTS FOR USE OF ITS INTEREST. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PORT AND RAILROAD WOULD BE INADE-QUATE TO HANDLE ADDITIONAL TONNAGE FROM GUINEA AND THAT UPGRADING WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT. HE ALSO THOUGHT GOL WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH COMPETITION FROM
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GOG IF THERE IS MORE COMPETITION IN THE IRON ORE MARKET

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BUT IS GOING ALONG WITH MIFERGUI/NIMBA TO AVOID ANTAGONIZ-
ING GOG FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

2. SCHNEIDER ALSO NOTED THAT MANY OTHER METALS ARE IN FAR SHORTER SUPPLY THAN IRON AND THEREFORE BETHLEHEM INTEREST IN MIFERGUI/NIMBA WOULD BE "PREMATURE" AT THIS TIME. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY CONAKRY'S SUGGESTION AND WISHES TO MAINTAIN CONTACT FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE BETHLEHEM INTEREST IN GUINEA.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BETHLEHEM STEEL INTEREST IN GUINEA
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, US, GV, BETHLEHEM STEEL
To: CONAKRY
Type: TE
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